

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

27 MAY 1954

COURIER

HQ-A-1163

2003
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LINCOLN

Chief of Station, Guatemala []

INFO: Chief, WHD, []

Operational

Meeting between Willfred O. Clower and SEMANTIC

REF: GUAT 661

1. As previously reported, Willfred O. Clower made his first contact with SEMANTIC and ESCANT on the night of 24 May 1954. By previous arrangement he was taken to a Safehouse by ESCOBILLA, and SEMANTIC was waiting for him there. Every security precaution was taken in that Clower proceeded by a devious route to a point in the city from where, he started walking. He was subsequently picked up by ESCOBILLA who had also been driving for 20 minutes around and about the city prior to making this pick up. There is no indication that any of the principals involved were under surveillance. As soon as contact was made between Clower and ESCOBILLA, the latter was given [] --in American currency, as related by GUAT 662. Clower obtained a receipt from ESCOBILLA and ESCOBILLA, after introducing Clower to SEMANTIC, departed.

2. SEMANTIC was very pleased to meet Clower and stated that he had long been desirous of meeting "Pepe", "in the flesh", since the "Pepe" channel had been a God-send to them.

3. The following general information was given to SEMANTIC:

a. The group now has two automobiles, one pick-up truck, three jeeps, three trucks, and one Cessna-170. With the exception of the airplane, the Cessna-170, all this equipment is used for operational purposes, and in some instances, the trucks are used for transporting goods at a profit. The purpose back of this is to keep the trucks on the road so the truckers can inform SEMANTIC of the various police and road controls. SEMANTIC also believes that constant appearance of these trucks will tend to reduce any suspicion concerning them.

b. The Cessna-170 is registered in the name of [] a local doctor and trusted lieutenant of SEMANTIC who has a private pilot's license. [] has made several trips over most of Guatemala attempting without avail to locate the foreign planes which have been widely reported as being in this country. The planes naturally will be used also in case of

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necessity for emergency flights of SEMANTIC and/or SECANT.

4. SEMANTIC is not happy with the drop-zones being picked by a group being sent in by CALLIGERIS. Some of these zones have been checked by SEMANTIC's people who consider that they are too difficult to get to. SEMANTIC believes that the "Palencia" drop zones will be of value on D-Day but not for earlier operations. He would like one drop to be made soon so that he can study the problems involved and he suggests that the "Rufina" drop zone be used.

5. SEMANTIC is attempting to find an individual who can obtain the information desired concerning the TCW cable.

6. SEMANTIC stated that the "Pepe" channel has proved so superior that he wishes all communications from WSHCOFS, or visa versa, to go by that channel. He further added that he would turn over to "Pepe" any future messages reaching him by the courier system since he believes it is necessary for "Pepe" to be kept well informed of their activities.

7. SEMANTIC advised that René La Plance, the former bodyguard of Humberto Gonzalez Juarez and an officer in the Caribbean Legion, is training men on a farm owned by Minister of Government, Augusto CHARRAUD McDonald and located near Champerico.

Earle N. Hannister

27 May 1954

ENB/sgl

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